

# BMF



# FORGOTTEN CALL

Volume 28  
Issue 3  
March 2026

## BAPTIST MISSIONS TO FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

### Pressing Toward the Mark by enabling and equipping the Missionary



**Jonathan & Rachelle Lyons**  
President

Scripture consistently reveals that when God calls people to serve, He enables and equips His servants for the work He assigns. The call of God always comes with the provision of God.

When the Lord called Moses, Moses focused on his inadequacies—his speech, confidence, and inability. Yet God responded, "Certainly I will be with thee." The enabling presence of God outweighed every personal limitation. Likewise, when Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, he became painfully aware of his uncleanness. But God cleansed him. God prepared him inwardly before using him outwardly.

The Apostle Paul, before his missionary journeys, spent time learning and growing—being disciplined by others. His boldness, endurance, and doctrinal clarity were produced through time with Christ and through trials permitted by God. Paul later testified, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The strength was not his own—it was supplied daily by the Lord.

God equips His servants through His Word, which instructs and corrects; prayer, which aligns the heart with His will; the Holy Spirit, who empowers beyond human ability. And, He equips through circumstances—blessings and hardships—that refine character and deepen dependence.

If God has called you, rest in this assurance: He will provide what you lack. The One who appoints the task also supplies the grace. Our responsibility is obedience and surrender. His responsibility is empowerment. And He never fails in His promises.

Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples exists to assist the local church. We provide help to those who are called to reach their full potential in service for the Lord. We do our best to provide the tools and relationships necessary for a successful, lasting ministry. If we can assist you in any way, please give us a call! It would be our honor to help you.

### The Grace of God in Missions



**Travis & April Sharpe**  
Unsheltered Field  
Administrators

My favorite definition of grace is, "the divine influence upon the heart." With that definition in mind, it's easy to "see" God's grace in action. In Acts chapter 11, the church in Jerusalem had heard about a gathering of new believers that was taking place in Antioch. Some of the Christians who had fled Jerusalem due to persecution had made their way to Antioch, preaching the gospel as they went.

Through their preaching, and testimonies, God had begun to save people, and those people were gathering there in Antioch. A new church was being born. As the church leaders back in Jerusalem heard about it, they sent Barnabas to go check it out. The really cool part is that when Barnabas arrived in Antioch and witnessed what was happening with all the new believers, the Bible says that he "saw" the grace of God. (Acts 11:23) What he saw was God's divine influence upon the hearts of many people who had heard and responded to the gospel.

As Barnabas began to teach and encourage this group of new believers, he soon needed help. He thought about Saul of Tarsus and how God had saved him and was doing a great work in his life. With the need for help, and Saul on his heart, he made the trip to Tarsus to find him. Evidently, Saul was happy to accompany Barnabas back to Antioch to help out. For an entire year, this dynamic duo became leaders in the new local church teaching the new believers. There were experiencing the grace of God in missions.

As the Lord seems to always do, when He wanted the gospel to go even further than Antioch, He called these two faithful servants to go. I'm sure it must have been difficult for the believers in Antioch to let Saul and Barnabas go, but nevertheless, they laid their hands on them and sent them away on what would become the first official missionary journey for the great Apostle Paul. The rest, as they say, is history! New Testament missions was born.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Continued from front page  
by Travis Sharpe**

Local churches have been sending missionaries out to fulfill the Great Commission ever since Paul and Barnabas set the example.

At every turn, from Pentecost, to the new believers in Antioch, to the first missionary journey, all the way up to modern-day missionary efforts, if we look closely, we can see the grace of God in missions. We can see the divine influence upon the hearts of those whom God is saving and sending.

It's my prayer that we not only see the grace of God in missions, but also in our own lives as part of this ever-important mission that God has called us to be a part of.

**Diligence  
by Rose Radank**

Diligence is not a loud word. It does not sparkle like *joy*, or trill like *victory*, or comfort like *peace*. But throughout the New Testament, diligence is one of the quiet secrets of becoming more like Christ. It is the steady choice to keep going. The faith no one sees. The daily devotion that changes a woman from the inside out.

Diligence builds Christ-like character. 2 Peter 1:5 states, "giving all diligence, add to your faith. . . ." Growth comes one choice at a time, step by step with a steady heart and mind. Diligence will help you to achieve something beautiful to your faith every day.

Diligence serves with a fervent heart. Romans 12:11 reminds us to give God our best: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." A fervent spirit whispers, "Lord, my desire is to give you my best in whatever job I do, because I am doing it for you!"

Diligence maintains excellent work. Titus 3:14 declares, "Let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." Fruitfulness is a clear picture of an excellent work.

Diligence seeks God with expectation. Seek out the treasures that God has in store for you. The one who is diligently looking is the one who will find the treasures. "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). God is not hiding from you. He is inviting you deeper.

**Third Culture Kids (TCKs)**

**It is embarrassing for a TCK when they don't know how to operate simple gadgets or technologies that are commonplace in his or her passport country.**

Diligence guards your heart and mind. "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them" (1 Timothy 4:15). A diligent woman watches her thoughts and attitudes.

Diligence cultivates love. Like a garden, you need to tend to it daily; keeping the weeds down and nurturing the plants to help them grow. Our lives need the same attention. We need to feed our spiritual and mental lives with love. "That your love abound yet more and more" (Philippians 1:9).

Diligence is quiet, but it creates a radiant life. Let diligence become the quiet secret that changes you from within.

**Editor's Notes**

Please continue to pray for these upcoming events:

**Leading with Purpose  
Conference, March 16 to 18**

This conference is an important part of BMFP's effort to *press toward the mark* of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We see the call of God to leadership as a higher calling that requires dedication to the Word of God with purpose to prepare the next generation to take our place.

\*To learn more or register to attend, go to [bmfp.org](https://bmfp.org) or follow this link - <https://bmfp.org/event/leading-with-purpose-conference/>

**Missionary Candidate Training, June 8 to 12**

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38). Pray also that your church would accept the role of a Jerusalem church and prepare and send missionaries.

***"The harvest here is indeed great, and the laborers are few and imperfectly fitted, without much grace, for such a work. And yet grace can make a few feeble instruments the means of accomplishing great things – things greater even than we can conceive." – J. Hudson Taylor***

**For Thou Shalt Go To All That  
I Shall Send Thee**

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